

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2155

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 1902 (B) STATE 070302

FOLLOWING IS NARRATIVE DATA TO SUPPORT FIGURES

FURNISHED REFTEL (A).

B. RATIONAL: IN THE NETHERLANDS, PARLIAMENT  
( SECOND CHAMBER) REMAINS THE LOCUS OF POLITICAL POWER  
AND PROVIDES THE TRAINING GROUND FOR CABINET MINISTERS.  
WE ANTICIPATE NO MAJOR SHIFT FROM THIS PATTERN. THE  
YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS TODAY WILL BE THE MINISTERS AND  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OF TOMORROW. THIS WILL BE ESPECIALLY  
TRUE IN THE LABOR PARTY, WHICH HAS PUT A  
PREMIUM ON YOUTH, AND IS NOW IN POWER. THUS US INTERESTS  
DICTATE WE CULTIVATE THIS GROUP MOST ASSIDUOUSLY.

LEADING MEDIA FIGURES IN THE NETHERLANDS ARE  
MOSTLY YOUNGER MEN ON THE LEFT OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.  
CRITICISM OF THE US, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF VIET- NAM,  
HAS BEEN THE RULE. WHILE WE PERCEIVE SOME MOVEMENT TOWARD  
A MORE NEUTRAL STANCE VIS- A- VIS THE US, YOUNG PROFES-  
SIONALS IN THE MEDIA REMAIN A HIGH PRIORITY TARGET.

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GIVEN THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF US ECONOMIC INTERESTS  
IN THE NETHERLANDS, WE HAVE MADE THE IDENTIFICATION AND  
CULTIVATION OF YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS A MAJOR CONCERN.  
YOUNG DUTCH BUSINESSMEN ARE GENERALLY SOUND ON MOST ISSUES

AFFECTING US POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS, BUT WE MUST ENSURE THEY ARE SOUND ON VITAL US ECONOMIC INTERESTS AS WELL.

WE INTEND TO CONTINUE CULTIVATION OF YOUNG MILITARY LEADERS TO ASSURE THEY " THINK AMERICAN" TACTICALLY AND THEREFORE ARE REREPTIVE WHEN IT COMES TO " BUYING AMERICAN". IN ADDITION, IN THE DUTCH POLITICAL SYSTEM YOUNGER CAREER OFFICERS WHO SERVE AS DEFENSE EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES SOMETIMES MOVE DIRECTLY INTO PARLIAMENT AND/ OR OTHE GOVERNMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NEW STATE SECRETARY FOR MATERIEL IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS A 37 YEAR OLD FORMER ARMY CAPTAIN AND GRADUATE OF THE DUTCH MILITARY ACADEMY.

THOUGH THEY SOMETIMES PRESENT PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF APPROPRIATE CONTACTS, UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERS REMAIN AN IMPORTANT TARGET.

ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE NETHERLANDS IS IN A STATE OF TRANSITION. THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE LARGEST DUTCH TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IS ONLY 35. UP TO NOW THE DUTCH TRADE UNIONS HAVE PLAYED A RELATIVELY PASSIVE POLITICAL ROLE. THIS IS CHANGING AS DUTCH UNIONS MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF EXERTING A MORE DIRECT AND SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE ON THE POLITICAL PROCESS. IN ADDITION TO YOUNG LABOR LEADERS' POTENTIAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE EFFECT THEIR POLICIES MIGHT HAVE ON MAJOR US INVENSTMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

C. SHORT TERM YOUTH IMPACT: THE PRINCIPAL GROUP WE ARE CERTAIN WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON US INTERESTS IN THE NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS IS THE YOUNG POLITICAL LEADER CATEGORY. THE LABOR PARTY, LARGEST IN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE PRINCIPAL PARTNER IN THE NEW COALITION, IS CONDUCTING A LONG- TERM STUDY OF DUTCH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. HIGH ON THE LIST OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIORITIES IS THE QUESTION OF CONTINUED DUTCH NATO MEMBERSHIP. THIS STUDY IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A 29 YEAR- OLD LABOR PARLIAMENTARIAN ( LEADER GRANTEE IN 1973). THE CONCLUSIONS OF THIS STUDY CLEARLY WILL HAVE AMAJOR IMPACT ON US INTERESTS. NOW THAT THE LABOR PARTY HAS COME TO POWER, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF YOUNG ( UNDER 35) POLITICAL FIGURES WILL HAVE KEY ROLES IN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION. FOR EXAMPLE THE NEW MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS ONLY 33.

II OBJECTIVES: THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN INTEREST IN A MERCANTILE NATION LIKE THE NETHERLANDS ( AS STATED IN THE EUROPARA) IS THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE IMPORTS OF US

GOODS AND SERVICES AS WELL AS REVERSE INVESTMENT AND TOURISM TO THE US. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE HIGH PRIORITY WE HAVE ASSIGNED TO FOSTERING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ACHIEVING US ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WE ALSO FEEL REALIZATION OF US INTERESTS IN BRAD AREAS OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARE PRIORITY OBJECTIVES. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN FOSTERING YOUTH SUPPORT FOR NATO AND A STRONG DEFENSE EFFORT. IN VIEW OF HIGH PRIORITY WE ATTACH TO YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, WE FEEL WE WILL ENCOUNTER NO PROBLEMS OF ACCESS TO FUTURE LEADERSHIP. GIVEN THE NORMAL US- DUTCH BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN ASSURING ACCESS TO THE LEADERSHIP LEVEL WHEN YOUNGER MEN ACTUALLY COME TO POWER.

III RESOURCES: THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT PROGRAM IS THE SINGLE MOST COST EFFECTIVE DEVICE TO ENSURE THE US HAS INFLUENCE ON FUTURE AND PRESENT DUTCH LEADERSHIP. EMBASSY THE HAGUE HAS MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO KEEP ALL INTERNATIONAL VISITORS IN THE 30-40 AGE GROUP. ONE WAY THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM COULD BE IMPROVED IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRANTS.

CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO THEMATIC GRANTS, E. G., A YOUNG LEFTIST DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIAN SAID HE ADMIRER WHAT HAD BEEN DONE IN THE US IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AREA, E. G., EPA, CEQ, AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF YOUNGER EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS COULD COME TO THE US AND STUDY THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT OF US EXPERIENCE. IF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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( IN CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENT PERHAPS CCMS) CANNOT FUND SUCH TRAVEL, LARGER PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO THINK ALONG THESE LINES. LARGE AMERICAN CORPORATIONS OR PRIVATE BUSINESS GROUPS SUCH AS NAM, ETC., MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR YOUNGER BUSINESSMEN.

AS SUGGESTED PREVIOUSLY, THE PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGE OF MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS AND DOD FUNDED ORIENTATION TOURS ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNGER OFFICERS IS THAT IT HELPS TO ENSURE DUTCH MILITARY CONTINUE TO THINK ALONG US TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC LINES AND THEREFORE ARE MOTIVATED TOWARD PROCUREMENT OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

IV. THE NETHERLANDS IS NOT A SOCIETY DOMINATED BY OLDER MEN ( 60 HAS BEEN THE USUAL POLITICAL RETIREMENT AGE). THE TREND TOWARD YOUNGER LEADERSHIP, MOREOVER, ESPECIALLY ON THE LEFT, BUT ON THE RIGHT TOO, IS INCREASING. THE TWO MAJOR INDIVIDUAL WINNERS IN THE NOVEMBER 1972 ELECTIONS WERE A 32 YEAR- OLD FIGURE ON THE RIGHT AND A 36 YEAR- OLD FIGURE ON THE LEFT. SECOND GENERATION LEADERSHIP IN THE LABOR PARTY, THE NATION'S LARGEST, IS ALL UNDER 40, AND OFTEN UNDER 35. THE AVERAGE AGE OF MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT CONTINUES TO

DECLINE. WE ANTICIPATE THIS YOUTH TREND WILL CONTINUE.  
CONSEQUENTLY AN ABOVE AVERAGE EFFORT SEEMS BEST SUITED TO  
ACHIEVING BASIC US INTERESTS IN THE NETHERLANDS.  
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